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- (54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD TO MANAGE SCR CATALYST NO₂/NO_x RATIO**
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See application file for complete search history.

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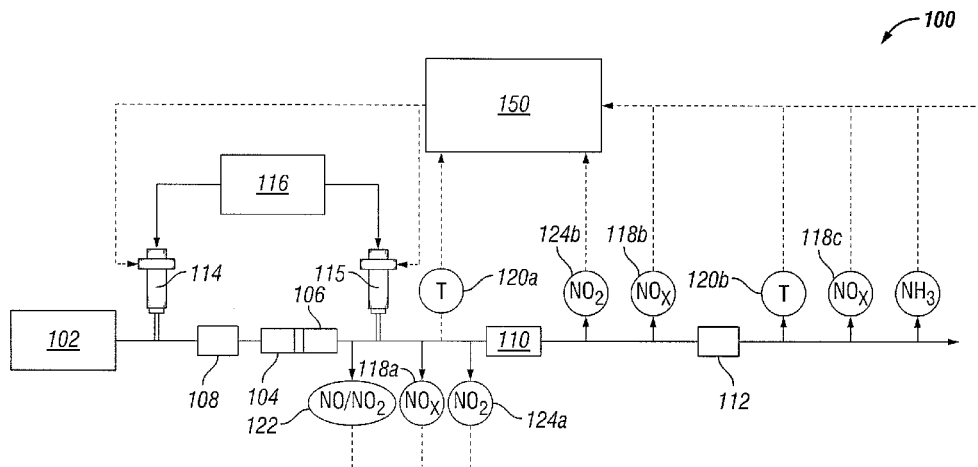
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- (57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems and methods are provided for determining and controlling an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target in an exhaust conduit between a first SCR catalyst and a second SCR catalyst. The method includes determining a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio in the exhaust conduit between the first SCR catalyst and the second SCR catalyst, and providing a reductant doser command in response to a deviation of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio from the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target.

34 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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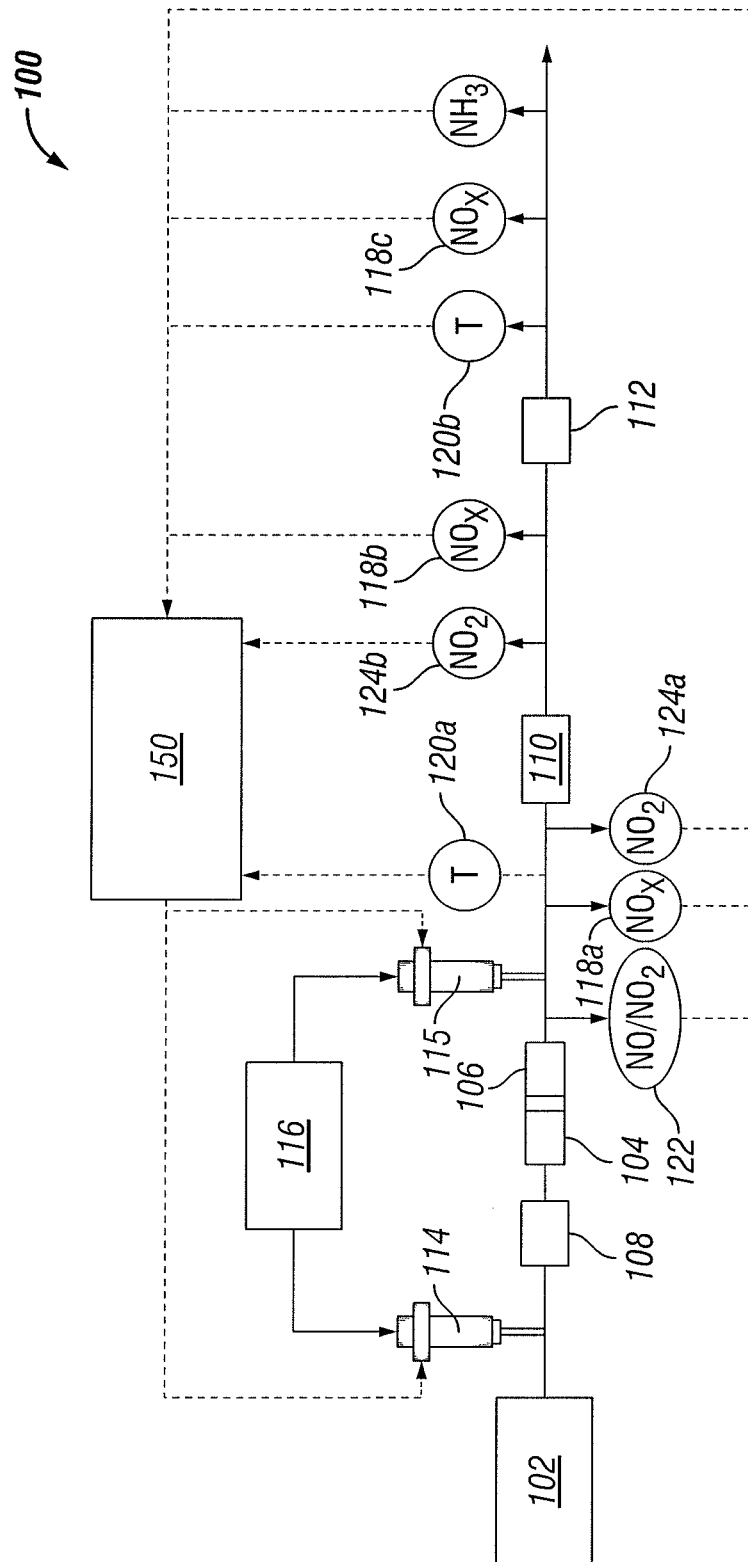


FIG. 1

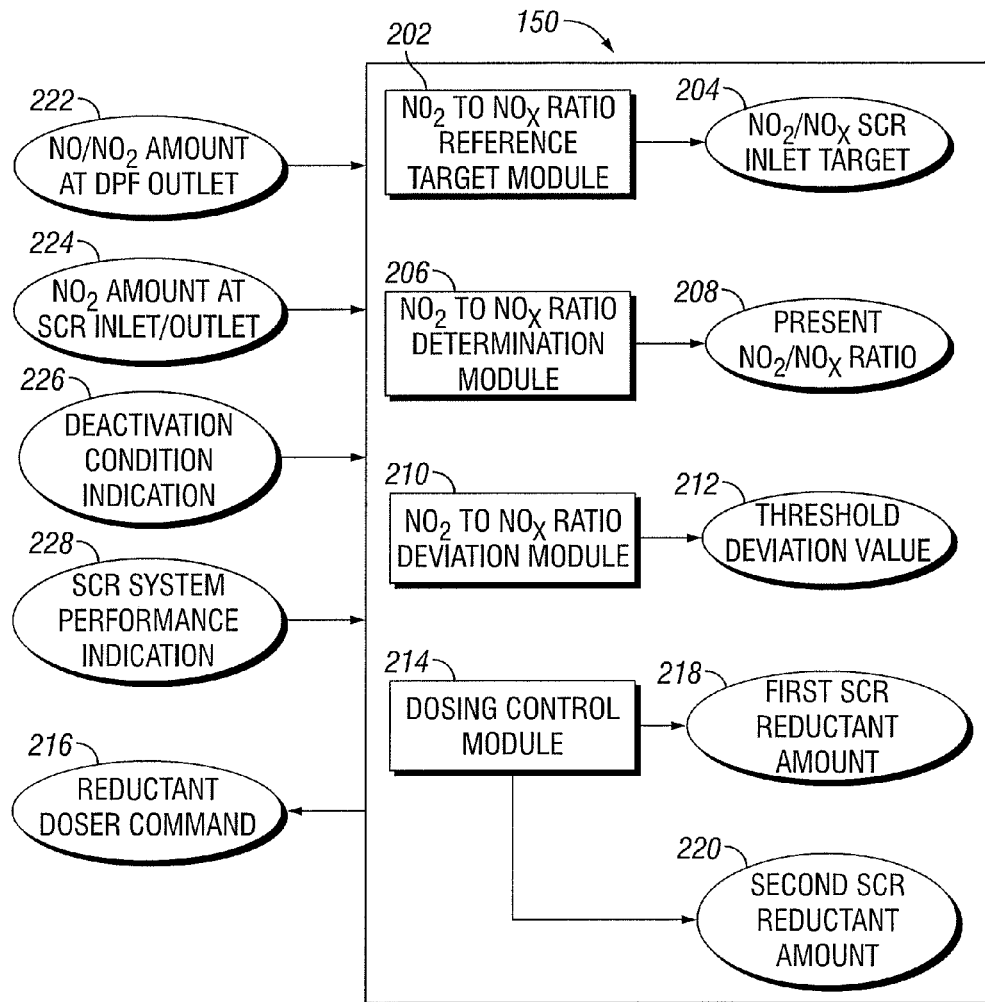
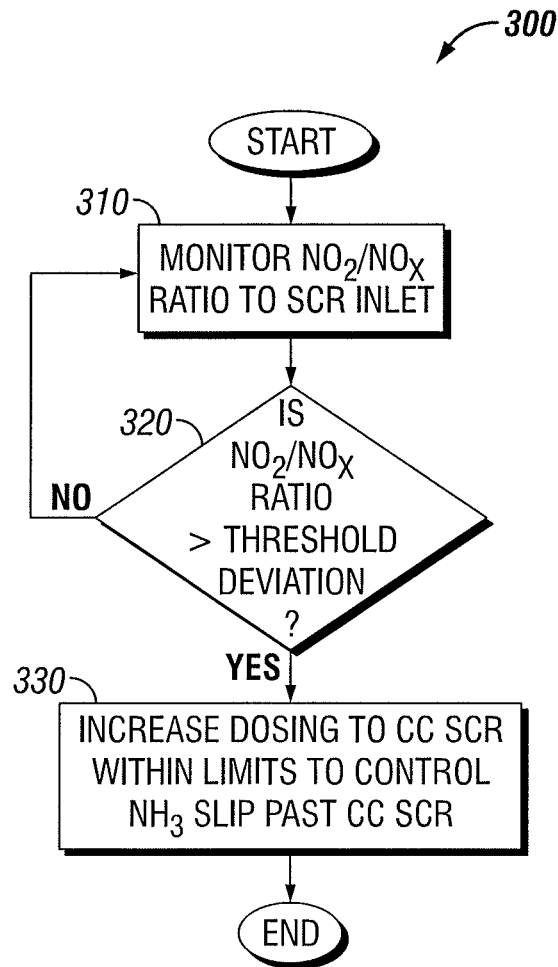


FIG. 2

**FIG. 3**

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SYSTEM AND METHOD TO MANAGE SCR CATALYST NO₂/NO_x RATIO

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims the benefit of the filing date of Provisional App. Ser. No. 61/607,143 filed on Mar. 6, 2012, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

Control of selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalysts is of increasing interest to meet modern internal combustion engine emissions standards. The efficiency of a typical SCR catalyst in removing NO_x emissions is sensitive to the molar ratio of NO₂ to NO_x at the inlet to the SCR catalyst. Under most conditions, the ratio of NO₂ to NO_x at the SCR inlet is established by the operational capability of the upstream diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) and diesel particulate filter (DPF) since these components tend to make NO₂ from NO upstream of the SCR catalyst inlet. However, as these components age, this ability to convert NO to NO₂ deteriorates, and the molar ratio of NO₂ to NO_x at the inlet to the SCR catalyst drops. Thus, the efficiency of the SCR catalyst is reduced over time. Accordingly, further technological developments in this area are desirable.

SUMMARY

One embodiment is a unique method and/or system for managing an NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the inlet of an SCR catalyst in an aftertreatment system. Further embodiments, forms, objects, features, advantages, aspects, and benefits shall become apparent from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exemplary system for control of an SCR aftertreatment system that is operable to manage an NO₂ to NO_x ratio target at the SCR inlet.

FIG. 2 is an exemplary controller for executing operations to manage an NO₂ to NO_x ratio target at the SCR inlet.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of a procedure for managing an NO₂ to NO_x ratio target at the SCR inlet.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, any alterations and further modifications in the illustrated embodiments, and any further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates are contemplated herein.

FIG. 1 is an exemplary engine and SCR aftertreatment system **100** with a controller **150**. The system **100** includes an internal combustion engine **102** and an exhaust conduit fluidly coupled to the internal combustion engine. The system **100** includes a close-coupled selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst **108** fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit near engine **102**, and a main SCR catalyst **110** fluidly coupled to

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the exhaust conduit at a position downstream of the close-coupled SCR catalyst **108**. The system **100** includes an NO/NO₂ sensor **122** coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position between the close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** and the main SCR catalyst **110**, a first reductant doser **114** operationally coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of the close-coupled SCR catalyst **108**, and a second reductant doser **115** operationally coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of the main SCR catalyst **110**.

The system **100** further includes controller **150** having a number of modules structured to functionally execute operations for controlling the SCR system. In certain embodiments, the controller forms a portion of a processing subsystem including one or more computing devices having memory, processing, and communication hardware. The controller may be a single device or a distributed device, and the functions of the controller may be performed by hardware or software. The controller may be in communication with any sensor, actuator, datalink, and/or network in the system.

In certain embodiments, the controller includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target module, an NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module, an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module, and a dosing control module. The description herein including modules emphasizes the structural independence of the aspects of the controller, and illustrates one grouping of operations and responsibilities of the controller. Other groupings that execute similar overall operations are understood within the scope of the present application. Modules may be implemented in hardware and/or software on computer readable medium, and modules may be distributed across various hardware or software components. More specific descriptions of certain embodiments of controller operations are included in the section referencing FIG. 2.

In certain further embodiments, the system **100** includes a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) **104** and a diesel particulate filter (DPF) **106** forming a DOC/DPF system positioned between close-coupled catalyst **108** and main SCR catalyst **110**. In other embodiments, any of the components **104**, **106** may be present or missing, catalyzed or not catalyzed, and may be arranged in alternate order. Further, certain components or all components may be provided in the same or separate housings.

The first reductant doser **114** is fluidly coupled to a reductant source such as a reductant storage tank **116**. First reductant doser **114** is fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of close-coupled catalyst **108**. The second reductant doser **115** is fluidly coupled to a reductant source such as the reductant storage tank **116**. Second reductant doser **115** is fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of main SCR catalyst **110**. The reductant is any type of reductant utilized in an SCR aftertreatment system. Specific examples include those that results in ammonia being utilized as the final reductant—including at least ammonia (gaseous or aqueous), urea, and aqueous solutions of urea.

The system **100** may include an ammonia oxidation catalyst (AMOX) **112** downstream of the second SCR catalyst **110**. In certain embodiments, the AMOX **112** may not be present, or the AMOX **112** may be commingled with the main SCR catalyst **110** (or the last SCR catalyst, where multiple SCR catalysts are present), for example with a washcoat applied toward the rear portion of the main SCR catalyst **110** that is devised to at least partially oxidize ammonia.

The exemplary system **100** further includes various sensors. The illustrated sensors include a first NO_x sensor **118a** positioned upstream of the main SCR catalyst **110**, a second NO_x sensor **118b** positioned downstream of the main SCR

catalyst **110**, a first temperature sensor **120a** positioned between the SCR catalysts **108**, **110**, and a second temperature sensor **120b** and third NO_x sensor **118c** and NH₃ sensor can be positioned downstream of the AMOX catalyst **112**. In addition, NO/NO₂ sensor **122** is positioned at the outlet of the DOC/DPF system, and NO₂ sensors **124a**, **124b** are positioned at the inlet and the outlet of main SCR catalyst **110**.

In addition, sensors can be provided that measure or detect deactivation conditions of one or more components of the aftertreatment system, such as the cumulative hours of DPF regeneration, accumulated temperature time data, miles, hours of operation, reversible and irreversible poisoning, and fueling at temperature. In one example, a sensor is provided to measure sulfur loading on one or both of the SCR catalysts **108**, **110** to determine a sulfur loading condition or sulfur poisoning of one or both of the SCR catalyst and/or the DOC/DPF system. Other sensors can be provided to measure or determine the mass flow through the exhaust system, the temperature of any component of the aftertreatment system, the amount of ammonia stored in one or both of the SCR catalysts **108**, **110** or outlet therefrom, etc.

The illustrated sensors are exemplary only, and may be re-positioned, removed, substituted, and other sensors may be present that are not illustrated in FIG. 1. Further, certain sensors may instead be virtual sensors that are calculated from other parameters available to the system, or values that would be indicated by sensors may instead be supplied to a computer readable memory location, via a datalink or network communication, or otherwise be made available to the system where the sensor providing the sensed parameter is not a part of the defined system.

FIG. 2 is an exemplary controller **150** for executing operations to manage a target ratio of NO₂ to NO_x at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110** and provide a reductant doser command. The controller operations of the controller in FIG. 2 are operations that adjust nominal control operations for a NO_x aftertreatment system utilizing a reductant. Nominal control operations for a NO_x aftertreatment system, including an SCR aftertreatment system, are understood in the art and are not described further herein. Any nominal NO_x aftertreatment control operations may be utilized, including without limitation control operations described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/051,693 "Ammonia sensor control of an SCR aftertreatment sensor," filed Mar. 18, 2011 which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The controller **150** includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target module **202** that determines an NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. The NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** is a target amount of NO₂ in an exhaust conduit downstream of the DOC-DPF system **104**, **106** that maintains NO_x reduction efficiency of the aftertreatment system over time. The NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** is a nominal control value for the controller **150**, and/or is determined in response to the nominal control value. For example, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** may be the NO₂ value at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110** that occurs in response to a targeted amount of reductant injected upstream of the close-coupled catalyst **108** as determined from an amount of NO_x being emitted by the engine and the NO to NO₂ conversion capability of the DOC/DPF system. In one embodiment, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** is 0.5. However, NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** may further be defined by a range of NO₂ to NO_x ratios that are less than and/or more than 0.5 that otherwise provide the desired NO_x reduction from main SCR catalyst **110**.

A kinetically favored SCR reaction requires the presence of NO and NO₂ in equimolar ratio. Certain aftertreatment

components, such as the DOC/DPF system, make NO₂ from NO and O₂. However, this oxidation reaction deactivates over time as these aftertreatment components age or encounter other deactivation conditions such as sulfur loading. As the inlet NO_x concentration to the DOC increases, the DOC/DPF system has reduced relative capability to convert NO to NO₂, which decreases the NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the outlet of the DOC/DPF system and at the inlet to the SCR catalyst, adversely impacting the ability of the SCR catalyst to remove NO_x from exhaust emissions. Therefore, the system disclosed herein is capable of producing additional NO₂ at the outlet of the DOC/DPF system to manage the NO₂ amount that provides NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204**, extending the useful life of the aftertreatment system. In the illustrated embodiment, this is accomplished with close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** upstream of the DOC/DPF system and a reductant doser **114** upstream of close-coupled SCR catalyst **108**. By increasing the reductant dosing over close-coupled SCR catalyst **108**, the inlet NO_x concentration of the DOC/DPF system is reduced. The DOC/DPF system outlet NO₂/NO_x ratio would thereby increase because the self-poisoning of the DOC/DPF system is reduced. The reductant amount injected by reductant doser **114** is controlled to provide the NO₂ amount at the outlet of the DOC/DPF system that satisfies the NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. However, the amount of reductant provided upstream of close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** is controlled to limit or prevent ammonia slip into the DOC which can create undesirable products of NO_x or N₂O.

The controller **150** further includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module **206** that determines a present amount of NO₂ in the exhaust conduit at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. The present amount of NO₂ can be used to determine a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208**. Controller **150** also includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module **210** that determines a threshold deviation value **212** in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204** and the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208**. The controller **150** further includes a dosing control module **214** that provides a reductant doser command **216** to first reductant doser **114** and second reductant doser **115** in response to threshold deviation value **212**. The reductant doser command **216** provided by the dosing control module **214** may include a first SCR reductant amount **218** to close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** and a second SCR reductant amount **220** to main SCR catalyst **110**. In one embodiment, as the first SCR reductant amount **218** increases, the second SCR reductant amount **220** to main SCR catalyst **110** decreases. However, there is a constraint on first SCR reductant amount **218** in that NH₃ slip past close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** is undesirable since the NH₃ slipping past will likely be oxidized over the DOC/DPF to undesirable products of NO, NO₂ and N₂O. Thus, first SCR reductant amount **218** can be limited to prevent ammonia slip past close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** in accordance with operating parameters, primarily the temperature and flow rate of the exhaust gas.

The dosing control module **214** provides the reductant doser command **216** in response to the threshold deviation value **212** indicating that the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** deviates more than a threshold amount from NO₂ to NO_x ratio target **204**. The reductant doser command **216** may be provided under any control scheme understood in the art, and/or under specific control schemes described herein. The reductant doser command **216** may include an actuator command value, a voltage or other electrical signal, and/or a datalink or network command. In certain embodiments, a reductant doser in a system including the controller **150** is responsive to the reductant doser command **216** to provide reductant to an

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exhaust stream at the positions of reductant dosers **114**, **115** upstream of the respective SCR catalysts **108**, **110**.

In one embodiment, NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module **206** determines the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** by receiving an input **222** of the NO/NO₂ amount at the DPF outlet from NO/NO₂ sensor **122**. As discussed above, an equimolar ratio of NO to NO₂ is favored for the SCR catalyst reaction. Therefore, when NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module determines the molar ratio of NO to NO₂ exceeds 1 by more than a threshold deviation value **212**, the DOC/DPF system is not converting sufficient NO to NO₂ to manage the NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. Dosing control module **214** provides a reductant closer command **216** that increases the amount of reductant dosing to close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** and generates additional NO₂ at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. As used herein, an increase in the amount of reductant can include increasing the rate at which reductant is injected and/or increasing the range of engine operating conditions in which dose-coupled SCR catalyst is utilized for treatment of NO_x emissions, including those conditions which otherwise would be treated by solely utilizing main SCR catalyst **110**. Furthermore, the portion of reductant closer command **216** corresponding to first SCR reductant amount **218** can be limited to prevent ammonia slip past dose-coupled SCR catalyst **108** as discussed above.

In another embodiment, NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module **206** determines the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** by receiving an input **224** of the NO₂ and NO_x amounts at the inlet and outlet of main SCR catalyst **110** with NO₂ sensors **124a**, **124b** and NO_x sensors **118a**, **118b**. When NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module **210** determines that NO₂ levels indicate the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** deviates from the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target **204** by more than a threshold deviation value **212**, dosing control module **214** provides a reductant doser command **216** that increases the amount of reductant dosing to close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** to generate additional NO₂ at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**.

In yet another embodiment, NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module **206** determines the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** by receiving an input **226** of a deactivation condition of one or more components of the aftertreatment system which provide an indication of reduced NO₂ production capability. For example, a poisoning condition or an aging condition, such as the cumulative DPF regeneration hours, accumulated temperature hours, hours of operation, miles, or fueling at temperature, can be tracked and correlated to the reduction in the capability of the aftertreatment system to produce NO₂ at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110** without utilization of reductant doser **114** and close-coupled catalyst **108**. NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module **210** can be programmed with a calibration table or the like that indicates the threshold deviation value **212** that occurs when a deactivation condition is met. Dosing control module **214** provides a reductant doser command **216** linked to the deactivation condition to increase the amount of reductant dosing to close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** and generate additional NO₂ at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**.

In yet another embodiment, NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module **206** determines the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio **208** by receiving an input **228** of an SCR system performance indication. For example, if for the same flow and temperature condition the main SCR catalyst stores more ammonia, then it is assumed that the NO₂ amount at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110** is low. NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module **210** can be programmed to determine that a threshold deviation value **212** occurs when an SCR performance indicator, such as high ammonia storage in the SCR catalyst, is met. Dosing

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control module **214** provides a reductant doser command **216** linked to the performance indication to increase the amount of reductant dosing to close-coupled SCR catalyst **108** and generate additional NO₂ at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**.

The descriptions here provide illustrative embodiments of performing procedures for controlling an SCR aftertreatment system. Operations illustrated are understood to be exemplary only, and operations may be combined or divided, and added or removed, as well as re-ordered in whole or part, unless stated explicitly to the contrary herein. Certain operations illustrated may be implemented by a computer executing a computer program product on a computer readable medium, where the computer program product comprises instructions causing the computer to execute one or more of the operations, or to issue commands to other devices to execute one or more of the operations.

With reference to FIG. 3, an exemplary procedure **300** includes an operation **310** to monitor the NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the inlet to main SCR catalyst **110**. The procedure **300** further includes a conditional **320** that determines if the NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the SCR inlet is greater than a predetermined threshold deviation from a target NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the SCR inlet. If the response to conditional **320** is NO because it is determined that NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the SCR inlet is not greater than the threshold deviation, then procedure **300** returns to operation **310**. Alternatively, procedure **300** can end until started again after lapse of a predetermined amount of time and/or occurrence of one or more operating conditions.

If the response to conditional **320** is a YES, then procedure **300** continues at operation **330**. At operation **330** a signal is provided to controller **150** to provide a reductant doser command that increases the reductant dosing to the close-coupled SCR catalyst, which creates additional NO₂ at the DOC/DPF system outlet and therefore increases the NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the SCR inlet to a value that approaches the target NO₂ to NO_x ratio and is less than the threshold deviation value. Furthermore, the reductant amount provided to the close-coupled SCR catalyst is limited to prevent ammonia slip in accordance with current operating conditions, such as exhaust temperature and flow rate. After execution of operation **330**, procedure **300** ends until started again after lapse of a predetermined amount of time and/or occurrence of one or more operating conditions.

As is evident from the figures and text presented above, a variety of embodiments according to the present invention are contemplated.

An exemplary set of embodiments is a method including determining an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target at an inlet to a first SCR catalyst and determining a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio to the first SCR catalyst. The method also includes determining an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target and the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio, and further determining a reductant doser command for injection of a reductant amount upstream of a second SCR catalyst. The second SCR catalyst is located upstream of both the first SCR catalyst and a DOC/DPF system. The reductant doser command is provided in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation.

In certain embodiments, the method includes determining a rate of change of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio and further adjusting the reductant doser command in response to the rate of change. In another embodiment of the method, determining the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises determining an NO/NO₂ amount at an outlet of the DOC/DPF system. In another embodiment of the method, determining the

present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises determining the NO₂ amount at the inlet and the outlet of the first SCR catalyst.

In yet other embodiments of the method, determining the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises determining a deactivation condition of an aftertreatment system, in which the aftertreatment system includes the first and second SCR catalysts and the DOC/DPF system. In one refinement of this embodiment, determining the deactivation condition includes determining cumulative regeneration hours of the DOC/DPF system. In another refinement of this embodiment, determining the deactivation condition includes determining accumulated temperature time of the aftertreatment system. In another refinement of this embodiment, determining the deactivation condition includes determining a reversible deactivation condition through accumulated fuel consumption at temperature. In one example, the reversible deactivation condition is a sulfur poisoning of the one or both the SCR catalysts and/or the DOC/DPF system.

In further embodiments of the method, the reductant amount for injection upstream of the second SCR catalyst increases as the DOC/DPF system ages. In one refinement of this embodiment, the reductant amount for injection upstream of the second SCR catalyst is limited to prevent ammonia slip past the second SCR catalyst. In another embodiment of the method, determining the reductant injection command further includes determining a second reductant command for injection of a second reductant amount upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the DOC/DPF system. In one refinement of this embodiment, the second reductant amount decreases as the first reductant amount increases. In an exemplary embodiment, the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst upstream of the DOC/DPF system.

Another set of exemplary embodiments is a method including interpreting an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target comprising a target amount of NO₂ at an inlet to a first SCR catalyst, interpreting a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio upstream of the first SCR catalyst, interpreting a deviation of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio from the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target, and injecting an amount of urea, typically as an aqueous urea solution, upstream of a second SCR catalyst to provide the target amount of NO₂ at the inlet of the first SCR catalyst in response to the deviation of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio exceeding a threshold deviation. The second SCR catalyst is located upstream of the first SCR catalyst.

In yet other embodiments, a DOC/DPF system is provided between the first and second SCR catalysts. In an exemplary embodiment, the method includes injecting a second amount of urea upstream of the first SCR and downstream from the DOC/DPF system. In a refinement of this embodiment, the second amount of urea decreases as the first amount of urea increases. In another exemplary embodiment, interpreting the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises interpreting an NO/NO₂ amount at an outlet of the DOC/DPF system. In a further exemplary embodiment, interpreting the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises interpreting an NO₂ amount at the inlet and an outlet of the first SCR catalyst. In another exemplary embodiment, interpreting the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises interpreting a deactivation condition of an aftertreatment system, wherein the aftertreatment system includes the first and second SCR catalysts and a DOC/DPF system. In one refinement of this embodiment, interpreting the deactivation condition includes interpreting cumulative regeneration hours of the DOC/DPF system.

In other exemplary embodiments, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target is a molar ratio of NO₂ to NO_x. In one embodiment, this molar ratio is 0.5.

Another exemplary set of embodiments is an apparatus including an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target module structured to determine a NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target at an inlet to a first SCR catalyst, an NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module structured to determine a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the inlet to the first SCR catalyst, and an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module structured to determine an NO₂ threshold deviation value in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target and the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio. The apparatus further includes a dosing control module structured to provide a reductant doser command in response to the NO₂ threshold deviation value. The reductant doser command corresponds to a reductant amount for injection upstream of a second SCR catalyst, where the second SCR catalyst is located upstream of the first SCR catalyst.

In certain embodiments, the apparatus includes a DOC/DPF system between the first SCR catalyst and the second SCR catalyst. In further embodiments, the dosing control module is further structured provide a second reductant doser command in response to the NO₂ threshold deviation value, the second reductant doser command corresponding to a second reductant amount for injection upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the DOC/DPF system. In another embodiment, the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst. In yet another embodiment, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module is further structured to determine the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio as a function of an NO/NO₂ amount at an outlet of the DOC/DPF system. In a further embodiment, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module is further structured to determine the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio as a function of a deactivation condition an aftertreatment system.

In another exemplary embodiment of the apparatus, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module is further structured to determine the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio as a function of the NO₂ amount at the inlet and an outlet of the first SCR catalyst.

Another exemplary set of embodiments is a system including an internal combustion engine, an exhaust conduit fluidly coupled to the internal combustion engine, a first selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit, a second SCR catalyst fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of the first SCR catalyst, and a reductant doser operationally coupled to the exhaust conduit at a first position upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst and at a second position upstream of the second SCR catalyst.

The system further includes a controller comprising an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target module structured to determine a NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target at an inlet to the first SCR catalyst. The controller further includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio determination module structured to determine a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio at the inlet to the first SCR catalyst. The controller also includes an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation module structured to determine an NO₂ threshold deviation value in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target and the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio. The controller further includes a dosing control module structured to provide a reductant doser command in response to the NO₂ threshold deviation value. The reductant doser command corresponds to a first reductant amount for injection at the first position and a second reductant amount for injection at the second position.

In an exemplary embodiment, the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst and the reductant is an aqueous urea solution.

Another exemplary set of embodiments is a method that includes determining a present nitrous oxide removal (de-NO_x) capability of a first SCR catalyst. The method also includes determining a reductant doser command for injection of a reductant amount upstream of a second SCR catalyst when the present deNO_x capability of the first SCR catalyst is not capable of meeting a deNO_x requirement. The second SCR catalyst is located upstream of both the first SCR catalyst and a DOC/DPF system. The reductant doser command is provided in response to the deviation deNO_x capability from the deNO_x requirement.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only certain exemplary embodiments have been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the inventions are desired to be protected. In reading the claims, it is intended that when words such as “a,” “an,” “at least one,” or “at least one portion” are used there is no intention to limit the claim to only one item unless specifically stated to the contrary in the claim. When the language “at least a portion” and/or “a portion” is used the item can include a portion and/or the entire item unless specifically stated to the contrary.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

determining an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target to a first selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst of an after-treatment system, the aftertreatment system including the first SCR catalyst, a second SCR catalyst upstream of the first SCR catalyst, and a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst;

determining a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio to the first SCR catalyst, wherein determining the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio to the first SCR catalyst includes receiving an input that indicates a deactivation condition of the DOC correlated to a reduced NO₂ production capability of the DOC, wherein the input indicating the deactivation condition corresponds to cumulative operational data for the aftertreatment system indicating one of a poisoning condition and an aging condition of the DOC;

determining an NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation in response to the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target and the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio, wherein determining the NO₂ to NO_x ratio deviation includes determining a threshold deviation value indicated by a calibration table based on the deactivation condition;

determining a reductant doser command for injection of a reductant amount upstream of the second SCR catalyst in response to the threshold deviation value; and providing the reductant doser command in response to the threshold deviation value.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a rate of change of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio and further adjusting the reductant doser command in response to the rate of change.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises determining an NO/NO₂ amount at an outlet of the DOC.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio further comprises determining an NO₂ amount at an inlet to the first SCR catalyst and at an outlet of the first SCR catalyst.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the aftertreatment system includes the first and second SCR catalysts and the DOC comprises a portion of a diesel oxidation catalyst/diesel particulate filter (DOC/DPF) system.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining the deactivation condition includes determining cumulative regeneration hours of the DOC/DPF system.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein determining the deactivation condition includes determining accumulated temperature time of the aftertreatment system.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein determining the deactivation condition includes determining a reversible deactivation condition by determining fuel consumption at temperature.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the reversible deactivation condition is a sulfur loading of the DOC/DPF system.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the reductant amount for injection upstream of the second SCR catalyst increases as the DOC/DPF system ages.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the reductant injection command further includes determining a second reductant command for injection of a second reductant amount upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the DOC.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the second reductant amount decreases as the reductant amount injected upstream of the second SCR catalyst increases.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the second reductant amount is limited to control ammonia slip past the second SCR catalyst.

15. A method, comprising:

interpreting an NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target comprising a target amount of NO₂ to a first selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst of an aftertreatment system, the aftertreatment system including the first SCR catalyst, a second SCR catalyst upstream of the first SCR catalyst, and a diesel oxidation catalyst DOC upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst;

interpreting a present NO₂ to NO_x ratio upstream of the first SCR catalyst, wherein interpreting the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio upstream of the first SCR catalyst includes interpreting an input that indicates a deactivation condition of the DOC correlated to a reduced NO₂ production capability of the DOC, wherein the input indicating the deactivation condition corresponds to cumulative operational data for the aftertreatment system indicating one of a poisoning condition and an aging condition of the DOC;

interpreting a deviation of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio from the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target, wherein determining the deviation of the present NO₂ to NO_x ratio from the NO₂ to NO_x ratio reference target includes determining a threshold deviation value indicated by a calibration table based on the deactivation condition; and

injecting an amount of reductant upstream of the second SCR catalyst to provide the target amount of NO₂ to the first SCR catalyst in response to the threshold deviation value.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the DOC comprises a portion of a diesel oxidation catalyst/diesel particulate filter (DOC/DPF) system between the first and second SCR catalysts.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising injecting a second amount of reductant upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream from the DOC/DPF system.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the second amount of reductant decreases as the amount of reductant injected upstream of the second SCR catalyst increases.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the second amount of reductant is limited to control ammonia slip past the second SCR catalyst.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting the present NO_2 to NO_x ratio further comprises interpreting an NO/NO_2 amount at an outlet of the DOC/DPF system.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting the deactivation condition includes interpreting cumulative regeneration hours of the DOC/DPF system.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting the deactivation condition includes interpreting a reversible deactivation condition by determining fuel consumption at temperature.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the reversible deactivation condition is a sulfur loading of the DOC/DPF system.

24. The method of claim 15, wherein interpreting the present NO_2 to NO_x ratio further comprises interpreting an NO_2 amount at an inlet and at an outlet of the first SCR catalyst.

25. The method of claim 15, wherein the NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target is a molar ratio of NO_2 to NO_x .

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the molar ratio is 0.5.

27. An apparatus, comprising:

a controller implemented hardware and a non-transitory computer readable medium, the plurality of modules including:

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target module structured to determine a NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target at an inlet to a first selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst of an aftertreatment system, the first SCR catalyst being located downstream of a second SCR catalyst and a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) being located upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst;

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio determination module structured to determine a present NO_2 to NO_x ratio at the inlet to the first SCR catalyst in response to an input corresponding to cumulative operational data of the aftertreatment system indicating a deactivation condition of the DOC correlated to a reduced NO_2 production capability of the DOC due to one of an aging condition and a poisoning condition of the DOC;

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio deviation module structured to determine an NO_2 threshold deviation value indicated by a calibration table based on the deactivation condition and the NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target; and

a dosing control module structured to provide a reductant doser command linked to the deactivation condition in response to the NO_2 threshold deviation value, the reductant doser command corresponding to a reductant amount for injection upstream of the second SCR catalyst.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the DOC comprises a portion of a diesel oxidation catalyst/diesel particulate filter (DOC/DPF) system between the first SCR catalyst and the second SCR catalyst.

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29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the dosing control module is further structured to provide a second reductant doser command in response to the NO_2 threshold deviation value, the second reductant doser command corresponding to a second reductant amount for injection upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the DOC/DPF system.

30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst.

31. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the NO_2 to NO_x ratio determination module is further structured to determine the present NO_2 to NO_x ratio as a function of an NO/NO_2 amount at an outlet of the DOC/DPF system.

32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the NO_2 to NO_x ratio determination module is further structured to determine the present NO_2 to NO_x ratio as a function of the NO_2 amount at the inlet and an outlet of the first SCR catalyst.

33. A system, comprising:

an internal combustion engine;

an exhaust conduit fluidly coupled to the internal combustion engine; a first selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit;

a second SCR catalyst fluidly coupled to the exhaust conduit at a position upstream of the first SCR catalyst;

a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) located upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst;

a reductant doser operationally coupled to the exhaust conduit at a first position upstream of the first SCR catalyst and downstream of the second SCR catalyst and at a second position upstream of the second SCR catalyst;

a controller including a plurality of modules implemented in at least one of hardware and a non-transitory computer readable medium, the plurality of modules comprising:

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target module structured to determine a NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target at an inlet to the first SCR catalyst;

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio determination module structured to determine a present NO_2 to NO_x ratio at the inlet to the first SCR catalyst in response to an input corresponding to cumulative operational data of the aftertreatment system indicating a deactivation condition of the DOC correlated to a reduced NO_2 production capability of the DOC due to one of an aging condition and a poisoning condition of the DOC;

an NO_2 to NO_x ratio deviation module structured to determine an NO_2 threshold deviation value indicated by a calibration table based on the deactivation condition and the NO_2 to NO_x ratio reference target; and

a dosing control module structured to provide a reductant doser command linked to the deactivation condition in response to the NO_2 threshold deviation value, the reductant doser command corresponding to a first reductant amount for injection at the first position and a second reductant amount for injection at the second position.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the second SCR catalyst is a close-coupled SCR catalyst.

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